

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

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FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 848

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KINSHASA 0348

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CG, PINT

SUBJECT: KAMITATU RETURNS TO ZAIRE - OTHER FORMER

REF: KINSHASA 10324

1. FORMER MINISTER FOREIGN AFFAIRS, PLANNING, AND INTERIOR KAMITATU MASEMBA RETURNED TO KINSHASA JANUARY 10, AFTER FIVE YEARS EXILE IN FRANCE, AND MADE STATEMENT ON ZAIRE TELEVISION SAME NIGHT. KAMITATU, IT WILL BE RECALLED, PUBLISHED 1971 BOOK, "LA GRANDE MYSTIFICATION DU CONGO-KINSHASA: LES CRIMES DE MOBUTU". PUBLICATION RESULTED IN DEFAMATION CHARGE IN FRENCH COURT WHERE KAMITATU WAS DEFENDED BY CHOME WHO WAS HIMSELF TO ACHIEVE RENOWN AS ANTI-MOBUTU AUTHOR.

2. WHILE MAKING IT CLEAR THAT HIS RETURN WAS PROMPTED BY GENERAL AMNESTY PROCLAIMED BY MOBUTU LAST NOVEMBER 25 RATHER THAN ANY SWITCH IN MOBUTU'S POLICIES, KAMITATU, REFERRED RESPECTFULLY TO RECENT "RADICALIZATION OF REVOLUTION" MEASURES (A-002) AND SAID HE HOPED TO MAKE MODEST CONTRIBUTION TO WORK OF NATIONAL CONSTRUCTION

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WHEN HE HAS FINISHED SOME WORK IN EUROPE.

(COMMENT: ONE OF KAMITATU'S UNFINISHED TASKS IN EUROPE IS COMPLETION, AT FRENCH UNIVERSITY, OF THESIS ON SGM/GECAMINES, AFTER WHICH HE EXPECTS TO RETURN TO ZAIRE TO ASSUME ECONOMIC PLANNING ROLE. HE HAS REPUTATION OF BEING HIGHLY INTLLIGENT, STRONGLY NATIONALIST POLITICIAN. HE IS FROM KIKWIT - AN AREA WHERE POLITICAL RESISTANCE TO THE REGIME HAS NEVER ENTIRELY DISAPPEARED.

3. OTHERS WHOSE IMMINENT RETURN UNDER GENERAL AMNESTY IS REPORTED IN PRESS ARE FORMER KWILU SENATOR AND EX-MINISTER OF LABOR MOTOBO (KAMITATU PROTEGE), AND FORMER AIR ZAIRE DIRECTOR GENERAL MUKENDI. ALSO FORMER AMBASSADOR KACHAMOURA WHO, WITH KAMITATU AND MOTOBO, WAS ALLEGEDLY ACTIVE IN LONDON-BASED OPPOSITION GROUP CALLING ITSELF COMMITTEE FOR THE LIBERATION OF ZAIRE. STILL ABROAD ALSO ARE NUMBER OF OTHER WELL KNOWN FIGURES. TWO OF THESE MAY SOMEDAY RETURN: FORMER MINISTER UNDER REBEL GIZENGA REGIME, THOMAS KANZA, AND FORMER FINANCE MINISTER ALBERT NDELE. ANOTHER, FORMER LUMUMBIST LEADER ANTOINE GIZENGA IS UNLIKELY TO DO SO.
HINTON

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